

FORT STEVENS-LINCOLN NATIONAL MILITARY PARK.

JUNE 26, 1902.—Referred to the Committee on Printing and ordered to be printed.

Mr. PROCTOR presented the following

**LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT AND OTHER OFFICERS OF THE
FORT STEVENS-LINCOLN NATIONAL MILITARY PARK ASSOCIA-
TION, WITH APPENDICES A, B, C, D.**

UNITED STATES SENATE,
Washington, D. C., June 24, 1902.

The Honorable CHAIRMAN

Committee on Military Affairs, U. S. Senate.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith a letter, with appendixes—A, B, C, and D—relative to the Fort Stevens-Lincoln National Military Park (Senate bill No. 4476, Fifty-seventh Congress, first session), and to request that the letter and appendixes may be printed.

It is the desire of the Fort Stevens-Lincoln National Military Park Association that, at an early date during the next session of Congress, a hearing may be granted the association; and to that end if the papers be printed, time and labor in connection with the subject may be saved.

With high regard, very respectfully, yours,

THOMAS M. VINCENT,
Brigadier-General, by Brevet, U. S. A.,
President of the Association.

FORT STEVENS-LINCOLN NATIONAL
MILITARY PARK ASSOCIATION,
Washington, D. C., June 2, 1902.

The Honorable CHAIRMEN COMMITTEES OF MILITARY AFFAIRS,
United States Senate and House of Representatives.

Referring to Senate bill No. 4476 and House bill No. 10528, Fifty-seventh Congress, first session (Appendix A), the Fort Stevens-Lincoln National Military Park Association has the honor to submit the following:

The object of the association is to fully inform the Congress, in the hope of its favorable consideration, of the bill which has been introduced, and wherein the purpose is recited; thus to preserve the most historic and important part—Fort Stevens and vicinity—of the defenses of Washington, which embraced, at the termination of the

civil war, "68 inclosed forts and batteries having an aggregate perimeter of 13 miles, and emplacements for 1,120 guns, 807 of which and 98 mortars were actually mounted; of 93 unarmed batteries for field guns, having 401 emplacements; and of 20 miles of rifle trenches and three blockhouses." Aside from the existing country roads of the District and the avenues of Washington, 32 miles of military roads served as the means of communication from the interior of the defensive lines, and from point to point thereof. The entire circuit of the defenses was 37 miles; and the magnitude of the work was for the capital of the nation, the maintenance of which was of the most vital importance in the civil war.

Several of the forts and the first to be constructed of these extensive defenses—inclusive of Fort Ellsworth, a large bastioned work—were laid out and their erection superintended by Capt. Horatio G. Wright, U. S. Corps of Engineers, who, as a volunteer aid, crossed the Long Bridge with Heintzelman's column May 23, 1861. Subsequently, as Major-General Wright, he commanded the Sixth Army Corps, and the timely arrival of two divisions of that corps on the battlefield of Fort Stevens, on the memorable day of July 11, 1864, saved, at the cost of many noble lives, the national capital from capture. Fort Stevens had been furnished with a powerful armament, mostly of siege guns, well protected by embrasures and traverses. The gorge was stockaded and flanked by a blockhouse. There was an extensive bombproof. A hollow in the rear of the site was capable of sheltering large bodies of men from curved artillery fire.

Fort Ellsworth, which strengthened our hold on Alexandria, was the first of the forts which were gradually developed into the Defenses of Washington, with Fort Stevens (originally Fort Massachusetts, inadequate for its important purpose) on the northern line covering one of the principal approaches to Washington; and it was only through the northern line that a passage into the city for an assailant force could be sought.

"Inadequately manned as the fortifications were, they compelled at least a concentration on the part of the assailants, and thus gave time for the arrival of succor." The Third Division of the Sixth Corps, which had been detached via Baltimore, contributed mainly to the delay of Early's Confederate forces at the Monocacy, and that delay proved important in connection with the timely arrival at Fort Stevens of the other Sixth Corps divisions under the command of Wright.

In 1893 General Wright identified the spot where President Lincoln stood to witness the battle, and where, near the President, a surgeon was wounded—the spot where Wright, standing by the President's side, entreated him not to expose his life to the enemy's bullets and ordered him to "come down" and "take a position behind the parapet"! The old parapet still exists and should be suitably preserved, and it is contemplated to so preserve it in case the bill should be enacted as law. It will then stand as a part of the park, and suitably mark Fort Stevens as the most important portion of the old defenses of Washington.

Wright has said that the President persisted in standing up and exposing his tall form. At another time General McCook said to the President: "To have you wounded here would be a glory; to have you killed would be a calamity; you must come with me;" and, thereupon, McCook asked, and insisted, that the President should sit down

on a small box until such time as it might be safe for him to expose the upper part of his body above the parapet—and the President cheerfully complied.

The bill, in connection with its other provisions, recites that the lines of battle of all the troops engaged—Union and Confederate—in the battle of Fort Stevens shall be ascertained and definitely marked, and that plain and substantial historical tablets shall be erected at such points in the vicinity of the park and its approaches as may be deemed fitting and necessary to clearly designate the positions and movements of all the troops which, inclusive of those without the limits of the park, were directly connected with the battle. Also, that the authorities of any State having troops engaged in said battle shall be authorized to enter upon the lands and approaches of the Fort Stevens-Lincoln National Military Park for the purpose of ascertaining and marking the aforesaid lines of battle of all the troops engaged.

At suitable points it is intended to place fitting historical tablets relative to Generals McCook and Early, the immediate commanders of the Union and Confederate forces, respectively. Also to Major-General Augur, who commanded the Twenty-second Army Corps and Department of Washington, inclusive of the troops under McCook. July 15, 1864, General Meigs suggested to General Halleck that there should be made "a careful measured survey of the rebel trenches at Fort Stevens"—this after General Meigs and General McCook had passed over the lines. (P. 333, part 2, vol. 37, Records of the Union and Confederate Armies.) General Halleck ordered that General Barnard should make the proposed survey, and General Augur, commanding the Department of Washington, in execution of the order, directed "a measured survey of the positions occupied by the rebels in front of our lines, especially the front covering Stevens, Slocum, and De Russy." Barnard's report (pages 414-15-16, part 2, vol. 37, Records of the Union and Confederate Armies) affords information that will be of value in the future location of General Early's forces.

The United States, or the District of Columbia, already have holdings covering one-half of the Federal lines between Fort Reno and Fort Totten, to wit: (1) Fort Reno, now a reservoir; (2) a school lot, near Connecticut avenue extended, in which the old earthworks still stand; (3) Rock Creek Park, containing Fort DeRussy, Battery Kingsbury, a couple of batteries near the creek, and several hundred yards of rifle pits—all in good preservation; (4) a school lot on the east side of Rock Creek, through which some of the old fortifications pass; (5) Battleground National Cemetery, where lie buried 40 Union soldiers killed in battle at and near the site of the cemetery, as follows:

Sergt. Thomas Richardson, Sergt. Alfred C. Starbird, Elijah S. Hufletin, Jeremiah Maloney, William Tray, Twenty-fifth New York Cavalry; E. C. Barrett, Fortieth New York Infantry; E. S. Bavett, John Davidson, Mathew J. DeGraff, G. W. Farrar, Mark Stoneham, Forty-third New York Infantry; William H. Gillette, Forty-ninth New York Infantry; Corpl. A. Matott, Corpl. William Ruble, Andrew J. Dowen, Andrew Manning, Alvarado Mowrey, Seventy-seventh New York Infantry; John Bentley, Harvey P. B. Chandler, Daniel L. Hogeboon, Alanson Mosier, John Renia, One hundred and twenty-second New York Infantry; Lieut. William Laughlin, Andrew Ashbaugh, Philip Bowen, John Ellis, George Garvin, H. McIntire, Sixty-first Pennsylvania Infantry; William Holtzman, Ninety-third Pennsyl-

vania Infantry; Sergt. George Marquet, Bernard Hoerle, Charles Seashouse, Frederick Walther, Ninety-eighth Pennsylvania Infantry; Sergt. John M. Richards, One hundred and thirty-ninth Pennsylvania Infantry; John Dolan, Second Massachusetts Cavalry; Patrick Lovett, Thirty-seventh Massachusetts Infantry; John Pickett, Seventh Maine Infantry; Corpl. George W. Gorton, First Rhode Island Cavalry; Russell L. Stevens, Third Vermont Infantry; C. S. Christ, Second United States Artillery.

The proposed boulevard for the park system of Washington, between the points mentioned in the foregoing, will, practically, embrace the "Military road," constructed in 1862, from Fort Sumner to Fort Lincoln, $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles, of which it has been said: "When the defenses are swept away, the roads may remain as a lasting benefit." Fort Totten, near the Military road, if made the property of the United States, is so near the United States Soldier's Home National Cemetery and the Soldier's Home that, for park purposes, it will prove an interesting and valuable adjunct to that historical park (Appendix B.—Maps).

To fully comprehend the importance of what took place, July 11 and 12, 1864, on the battlefield in front of Fort Stevens, a brief retrospect is essential.

HUNTER ASSUMES COMMAND.

After the battle of New Market, May 15, 1864, Major-General Hunter, at Cedar Creek, May 21, assumed command of the Department of West Virginia; and the Lynchburg expedition, through the Army of the Shenandoah, assumed prominence. Hunter started with about 8,500 men of all arms; after uniting with Crook and Averill, his force was about 18,000. Lieutenant-General Early's force of the Army of Northern Virginia moved from Gaines Mill to Lynchburg, to defend that place from Hunter's meditated attack; to strike Hunter's force in the rear, and, if possible, destroy it; then to move down the Shenandoah Valley, and to cross the Potomac at Leesburg or at, or above, Harper's Ferry, as might be found most practicable, thus to threaten Washington. Early has said: "General Lee did not expect me to be able to enter Washington. His orders were, merely to threaten the city, and when I suggested to him the idea of capturing it he said it would be impossible."^a

Hunter failed in his attempt on Lynchburg, and, owing to a want of ammunition, retired from before that place and fell back into West Virginia. He was pursued by Early's force for three days—about 60 miles—until Hunter reached the mountains, en route via Salem and Lewisburg. He left Charleston, Kanawha, July 3 and reached Parkersburg July 4 by water. June 22 the pursuit ceased, as Early did not deem it proper to continue it. Sheridan, during his Trevilian Station cavalry raid, was to have united, via Charlottesville, with Hunter at Lynchburg, and their combined forces were to have destroyed Lee's communications and depots, and then to have joined Grant before Richmond. After the severe battle at Trevilian Station, Sheridan learned from prisoners that Hunter, instead of coming to Charlottesville, was near Lexington, moving upon Lynchburg; that Early's

^aAs to this movement, General Early, by telegram, June 16, 1864, to General Breckinridge, at Lynchburg, said: "My first object is to destroy Hunter, and the next it is not prudent to trust to telegraph. Hold on and you will be amply supported."

corps was on its way to Lynchburg; and that Breckinridge was at Gordonsville. Therefore he concluded to return to the Army of the Potomac. Hunter's movements had rendered it impracticable for Sheridan to execute his orders in the presence of the cavalry forces of Hampton and Fitz Lee.

EARLY OBEYS THE FURTHER ORDERS OF LEE.

Early, after his pursuit of Hunter had ceased, became subject to the orders of General Lee directing him, "after disposing of Hunter," to return to Lee's army, or to carry out the original plan of an expedition across the Potomac. Early determined to take the responsibility of the latter. He marched to Buchanan, June 23, reached Staunton in advance of his troops on the 26th—his troops arriving on the 27th—and on the 28th resumed the march, after detaching portions of his corps to destroy the railroad bridge over the South Branch of the Potomac, and all the bridges on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad between that point and Martinsburg. July 2 he was at Winchester, and there received orders "to destroy the Baltimore and Ohio road and the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, as far as possible." July 3 the Union forces evacuated Martinsburg, and during the night retreated across the Potomac, at Shepherdstown, to Maryland Heights. During the night of July 4 the Union forces evacuated Harpers Ferry, burning the Potomac railroad and pontoon bridges. It was not until the 5th that General Grant was positive that Early was not in front of Richmond.

EARLY'S FORCES CROSS THE POTOMAC.

July 5 and 6, Early's troops crossed the Potomac at Shepherdstown, a detachment advancing toward Maryland Heights, when the Union forces there took position in the works. Early has said: "My desire had been to maneuver the enemy out of Maryland Heights so as to move directly to Washington; but he had taken refuge in his strongly fortified works, and I therefore determined to move through the gaps of South Mountain, north of the Heights." In the early morning of July 8 the entire force moved; a part through Crampton's Gap; another through Fox's Gap; and a third through Boonsboro Gap with the trains and rear guard which had started the night before from Harpers Ferry, after burning the trestle railroad works. Early had been informed by General Lee that an effort would be made to release the prisoners of war at Point Lookout, and he was directed to take steps to unite them with his command.

Early has said: * * * "On the 9th Johnson, with his brigade of cavalry and horse artillery, moved to the north of Frederick, with orders to strike the railroads from Baltimore to Harrisburg and Philadelphia, burn the bridges over the Gunpowder, also to cut the railroad between Washington and Baltimore, and threaten the latter place; and then to move toward Point Lookout for the purpose of releasing the prisoners, if we should succeed in getting into Washington." The other troops moved toward Monocacy Junction. The battle of the Monocacy was fought on the 9th, and on the 10th the victorious Confederate army moved at daylight and bivouacked that afternoon at and near Rockville. Thence, at daylight on the 11th, the movement was resumed; and Early rode ahead, on the Seventh street pike, arriv-

ing in sight of Fort Stevens a short time after noon, when he discovered that the fort was feebly manned. Thereupon he ordered his advance division to form line as rapidly as possible, throw out skirmishers, and move into the works, if it could be done; but before the division could be brought up a column of Union troops entered the works, skirmishers were thrown out in front, and an artillery fire opened upon the Confederate force.

The attempted surprise was thus defeated, and it became necessary for Early to reconnoiter, which consumed the remainder of the day, with the result that he determined to make an assault upon the works at daylight the morning of the 12th. That morning, "as soon as it was light enough to see," Early "rode to the front and found the parapet lined with troops." After that discovery we have his own words: "I had therefore, reluctantly, to give up all hopes of capturing Washington after I had arrived in sight of the Dome of the Capitol, and given the Federal authorities a terrible fright." The Sixth Corps had arrived the evening of the 11th, and Major-General McCook, in command of the northern line of defense, "deemed it absolutely necessary that the immediate front should be picketed by experienced men." Accordingly, he directed Major-General Wright "to furnish a force 900 strong of (his) veteran corps for picket duty during the night, constant skirmishing being kept up between the lines until after dark on the 11th." Troops from that corps, also, at 6 p. m. on the 12th, made the successful assault upon the two important points held by the enemy; and the Sixth Corps was selected because McCook, as said by him, believed that its veterans could do the work better, and with less loss of life, than any other troops under his command.

The Sixth Corps, under the distinguished Wright, saved Washington. Halleck telegraphed to Grant July 13: * * * "The enemy fell back during the night. * * * From the most reliable estimates we can get of the enemy's force, it numbers 23,000 to 25,000, exclusive of cavalry. They state that a part of Hill's Corps is coming to reinforce them, and that without them they would have captured Washington if the Sixth Corps had not arrived."

WASHINGTON NOT PREPARED.

The act of February 24, 1864, established "the will of the President as the authority for raising troops;" and March 14 a call was made for 200,000, and April 23 for 85,000—numbers that indicate an energetic struggle for the Union; and in July we had in service about 900,000, in the aggregate. Notwithstanding that vast force, Washington was not prepared for defense by the 31,000—aggregate present July 10—composed mainly of invalids, militia, hospital guards, recruits under instructions, and provisional forces. The Department of Washington had been stripped of veterans sent to aid important operations elsewhere; and the 944 heavy guns in the forts were without skilled men to fire them.

Consequently, it is not astounding that in late June and early July consternation reigned supreme. Aside from the impaired finances of the Government, and the fear of foreign intervention, the tentacula of Early's army had broken railroads and destroyed much property; Washington and Baltimore were filled with fugitives; two passenger trains on the rail between Philadelphia and Baltimore were upset and

destroyed by the enemy, General Franklin captured in one of them; the forces in the Department of West Virginia were paralyzed; troops from Pennsylvania and New York were hard to obtain; and important movements of the Army of the Potomac had been delayed. Under such adverse conditions, the President, in almost utter despair, telegraphed, July 10, 2.30 p. m., to General Grant, as follows: * * * "General Halleck says we have absolutely no force here fit to take the field. * * * Wallace, with some odds and ends and part of what came up with Ricketts, was so badly beaten yesterday at Monocacy that what is left can attempt no more than to defend Baltimore. What we shall get in from Pennsylvania and New York will scarcely be worth counting, I fear.

Now, what I think is that you should provide to retain your hold where you are, certainly, and bring the rest with you, personally, and make a vigorous effort to destroy the enemy's force in this vicinity." * * * That date, 10.30 p. m., Grant replied that he had sent the Sixth Corps, commanded by an excellent officer, besides over 3,000 other troops and one division of the Nineteenth Corps. He added: "Before more troops can be sent from here, Hunter will be able to join Wright in the rear of the enemy with at least 10,000 men, besides a force sufficient to hold Maryland Heights." * * * Here it is well to note that Hunter was forced to remain at Cumberland until July 14, pressing forward his troops, as, from necessity, they continued to arrive slowly from the west. That date he left Cumberland (occupied by Sullivan's Union cavalry on the 10th) and arrived at Harper's Ferry, on horseback, the same night. The morning of the 14th Early had crossed the Potomac at White's Ford and continued his retreat.

When Early's army reached the gates of Washington and its able commander gazed, from his position at Fort Stevens, upon the dome of the Capitol, it is evident that could he have unfurled the Confederate colors from that dome, it "would have been the signal of 'recognition' by those foreign powers whose open influence and active agency was likely to be too willingly thrown with whatever plausible pretext into the scale of dismemberment, to become decisive of the event!" The enemy was at Fort Stevens with good chances of occupying Washington, dispersing the United States Government and destroying its archives—all of which could have been completed by a single day's possession.

The historic battlefield of Fort Stevens should ever stand well to the front in the memory of the people; and for all time it should be a sacred place of inspiration to the generation of people who have reached the stage of action since July, 1864. Fort Stevens should be perpetuated in granite; and be a base for figures, in bronze, of Lincoln and Wright!

Lincoln's presence at Fort Stevens proved a grand inspiration to the troops defending the capital. The Army recognized him as the foremost of the men who were "alive to the great questions of the hour, and watching the development of minds and of events." (Appendix C.)

The day prior to the attack on Fort Stevens, after a telegram to the governor of Maryland, "Let us be vigilant and keep cool," he left the White House and rode to his cottage at the National Soldiers' Home—not remote from Fort Totten—despite the protest of Stanton and other officials, whose solicitude seemed to irritate him. The War

Secretary insisted upon his returning to the city, and the Navy Department marked its anxiety by holding a war ship in readiness in case it should prove necessary for the President to quit Washington. Coupled with his fearlessness, we find hopefulness, fortitude, and extreme charity for all men. From 1861 to 1865 he moved steadfastly in the gloom, guided by his own words: "My paramount object is to save the Union; and not either to save or destroy slavery." The flag of our united country now blesses his birthday.

The Declaration of Independence was his compendium of political wisdom, the Constitution of the United States and the life of Washington his constant study. He said, in old Independence Hall, that he never had "a feeling, politically, that did not spring from sentiments embodied in the Declaration of Independence, which gave liberty not alone to the people of this country, but to the world in all future time," and that if the country could not be saved without giving up that principle "he would rather be assassinated on the spot than surrender it."

He had practical military experience through his service in the Black Hawk war, wherein he was (1) a captain of a company; (2) a private in Capt. Elijah Ile's independent rangers, formed of "generals, colonels, captains, and other distinguished men from the first disbanded army;" and (3), again a private in an independent company under Capt. Jacob M. Early. Gen. Robert Anderson, of Fort Sumter fame, mustered him into the two independent companies. Among the best known in that war were Gen. Robert Anderson, Col. Zachary Taylor, Gen. Winfield Scott, United States Senators Henry Dodge, William D. Ewing, and Sidney Breese; William S. Hamilton, a son of Alexander Hamilton; Col. Nathan Boone, a son of Daniel Boone; and Jefferson Davis, President of the Southern Confederacy.

With the Black Hawk service as a basis, Lincoln's subsequent study—particularly from 1861 to 1865—developed him "into a great military man; that is to say, a man of supreme military judgment." We have the evidence of this in the pointed questions and memoranda which he propounded and submitted to his generals during the civil war. When he extended advice it was wise, judicious, and timely, as has been said by men who had close opportunity of judging. "Devoid of self-esteem, unconscious of a mighty ability, he arrived at and attained results because he believed eternal justice demanded them. He loved peace, but loved the Union more," and thus stood as "the one providential leader, the indispensable hero, of the great drama." As a tribute to that hero, and that history connected with the defenses of Washington may be perpetuated, the Fort Stevens-Lincoln National Military Park Association, with the highest respect, earnestly begs favorable consideration by the Congress of the United States of the bill to establish the Fort Stevens National Military Park. (Appendix A.)

The North and South are now inseparably united, and the people of the United States "build monuments to the dead, but no monuments to victory." "On the dial of time no power can turn back the solemn finger of history;" but, as lovers of the Union, we may well be interested in the duty of marking the sacred soil to which the finger of history shall ever point. Accordingly, we are inspired in the effort to secure and preserve the Fort Stevens-Lincoln National Military Park, to the end that Fort Stevens and its vicinity may ever stand

forth as the most important part of the defenses of Washington connected with the momentous struggle between the contending forces from 1861 to 1865.

THOMAS M. VINCENT,

Brigadier-General, by Brevet, U. S. Army, President.

A. S. PERHAM,

Secretary.

LOUIS C. WHITE,

Treasurer.

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE FORT STEVENS-LINCOLN NATIONAL MILITARY PARK ASSOCIATION.

Officers.—Gen. Thomas M. Vincent, U. S. A., president; Maj. A. S. Perham, secretary, 905 Westminster street, Washington, D. C.; Color Sergt. Louis C. White, treasurer.

Members.—Maj. Henry E. Alvord, Gen. George W. Balloch, Mr. Edward T. Bates, Mr. Paul Beckwith, Maj. Carter Berkeley, Capt. Nathan Bickford, Maj. Henry L. Biscoe, Gen. F. F. Bogia, Gen. H. V. Boynton, Chaplain J. H. Bradford, Gen. Joseph C. Breckinridge, Col. J. Edwin Browne, Maj. Hiram Buckingham, Mr. Barry Bulkley, Dr. Thomas Calver, Maj. Edward R. Campbell, Col. S. E. Chamberlain, Dr. Horace Coleman, Gen. W. R. Cox, Mr. W. V. Cox, Dr. C. C. V. Crawford, Maj. S. A. Cunningham, Capt. William B. Denny, Gen. R. G. Dyrenforth, Maj. James E. Eldredge, Col. Calvin Farnsworth, Gen. Winson B. French, Gen. H. W. Gilmore, Gen. John B. Gordon, Maj. Charles G. Gould, Gen. L. A. Grant, Gen. George H. Harries, Mr. Findlay Harris, Hon. Hugh Hastings, Col. Ransom Hathorn, Col. Arthur Hendricks, Maj. Thomas Hopkins, Dr. Franklin T. Howe, Maj. A. E. H. Johnson, Col. John M. Kline, Gen. A. M. Legg, Capt. Henry B. Looker, Chaplain John H. Macomber, Gen. Alexander McD. McCook, Col. John R. McElroy, Gen. John Middleton, Dr. Charles Moore, Capt. John W. Morton, Mr. Zebina Moses, Governor George K. Nash, Judge H. N. Nevius, Maj. Henry J. Nichols, Col. Hannibal Norton, Gen. William H. Penrose, Dr. Charles V. Petteys, Dr. Robert Rayburn, Mr. Frank Raymond, Col. Robert G. Rutherford, Gen. D. E. Sickles, Gen. George H. Slaybaugh, Col. W. J. Sperry, Gen. Hazard Stevens, Col. Israel W. Stone, Hon. James Tanner, Col. Amison S. Tracy, Col. George H. Turner, Gen. Lew. Wallace, Gen. Frank Wheaton, Gen. Edward W. Whitaker, Maj. Leander P. Williams, Gen. John M. Wilson, Mr. John H. Wolf, Gen. Marcus J. Wright, the adjutant-general of Maine, the adjutant-general of Vermont, the adjutant-general of Massachusetts, the adjutant-general of New York, the adjutant-general of Pennsylvania, the adjutant-general of Ohio, the adjutant-general of Michigan, the adjutant-general of Illinois, the adjutant-general of Rhode Island.

APPENDIX A.

[S. 4476, Fifty-seventh Congress, first session.]

A BILL To establish a national military park at the battlefield of Fort Stevens, in the District of Columbia.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That for the purpose of preserving and suitably marking for historical and professional military study the only battlefield in the District of Columbia, known as Fort Stevens, where the advance line of Confederate troops, under General Jubal A. Early, met the improvised Union forces—then the sole defense of Washington—under General A. McD. McCook, and stoutly resisted until they could not longer contend favorably with the enemy's line, thus rendering it necessary that they should be "ordered to fall back slowly, fighting until they reached the rifle pits," where they met a detachment of the Veteran Sixth Army Corps, commanded by General H. G. Wright, whose timely arrival on this battlefield, on the memorable day of July eleventh, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, saved, at a cost of many noble lives, the national capital from capture; and to mark the exact location where Abraham Lincoln, then President of the United States, stood and witnessed said battle, the Secretary of War is hereby authorized and directed to acquire, under the provision of the act approved February twenty-second, eighteen hundred and sixty-seven, entitled "An act to establish and protect national cemeteries," or under the act approved August first, eighteen hundred and eighty-eight, entitled "An act to authorize condemnation of land for sites of public buildings, and for other purposes," all that parcel of land situated near Brightwood, in the District of Columbia, and particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the point A, on the plat hereto attached, at the junction of the west line of Brightwood avenue and the north line of the public school lot immediately north of Brightwood; thence northerly with the west side of Brightwood avenue, four hundred and forty feet, more or less, to the easterly projection of the center line of that street of the highway-extension plan, running east and west, whose eastward projection runs next north of old Fort Stevens parapet; thence with the eastern projection of said center line aforesaid and with the said center line itself due west ten hundred and thirty feet, more or less, to a point four hundred and fifty feet west of the west line of Thirteenth street extended, to intersect a line drawn north twenty-one degrees twenty-six minutes east from a stone at a fence corner, said point of intersection being three hundred and sixty-eight and three-tenths feet, more or less, from said stone; thence south twenty-one degrees twenty-six minutes west three hundred and sixty-eight and three-tenths feet, more or less, to said stone; thence due south three hundred and fifty feet, more or less, to the north line of the Rock Creek Ford road; thence along the north line of said road southeasterly one hundred feet, more or less, to the center of the second street of the highway-extension plans lying south of the first-mentioned street of said plans; thence with the center line of said street southeasterly five hundred and forty-five feet, more or less, to intersect the center line of the due east and west portion of said last-mentioned street; thence with said center line due east two hundred and thirty feet, more or less, to the west side of the old Piney Branch road; thence with the west side of said road northerly four hundred feet, more or less, to the projection of the north line of the public school property aforesaid; thence with said north line southeasterly two hundred and forty feet, more or less, to the beginning, containing seventeen acres, more or less, and being the same parcel colored green and inclosed by the lines A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, A on plat hereto attached, together with that square of the highway-extension plans lying east of Brightwood avenue, and being the fourth square east of said avenue and bounded on the south by the second of the east and west streets of said plans north of the junction of roads at Brightwood, containing five acres, more or less, and also together with that block of the highway-extension plans inclosing old Fort Totten, containing four and one-half acres, more or less; all three parcels above described being selected on such topographical plan as to include the most important strategic points in the chain of defenses on the north of Washington, extending from Fort Reno on

the west to Fort Totten on the east, this line being in actual use during the engagement of July eleventh and twelfth, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, the total area of the three parcels being twenty-six and one-half acres, more or less, and upon the report of the Attorney-General of the United States that a perfect title has been secured under the provisions of the aforesaid acts, the said lands and roads are hereby declared to be a national park, to be known as the Fort Stevens-Lincoln National Military Park.

SEC. 2. That the said Fort Stevens-Lincoln National Military Park shall be under the control of the Secretary of War, and it shall be his duty, immediately after the passage of this act, to notify the Attorney-General of the purpose of the United States to acquire title to the lands and roads described in the previous section of this act under the provisions of the aforesaid acts; and the said Secretary, upon receiving notice from the Attorney-General of the United States that perfect titles have been secured to the said lands and roads, shall at once proceed to establish and substantially mark the boundaries of the said park.

SEC. 3. That the affairs of the Fort Stevens-Lincoln National Military Park shall, subject to the supervision and direction of the Secretary of War, be in charge of three commissioners, one of whom shall have been an officer of the Army on duty in the War Department at the time of the battle, and the other two shall be officers who shall have actually participated in the battle of Fort Stevens, all three to be appointed by the Secretary of War; and, in addition, there shall be detailed by the Secretary of War from among those officers best acquainted with the details of the battle of Fort Stevens one who shall act as secretary of the commission. The said commissioners and secretary shall have an office in the War Department building, and while on actual duty shall be paid such compensation out of the appropriation provided in this act as the Secretary of War shall deem reasonable and just.

SEC. 4. That it shall be the duty of the commissioners named in the preceding section, under the direction of the Secretary of War, to superintend the opening of such roads as may be necessary to the purposes of the park, and the repair of the roads of the same, and to ascertain and definitely mark the lines of battle of all troops engaged in the battle of Fort Stevens and points of historic interest connected with the fortification or defenses of the national capital during the civil war, so far as the same shall fall within the lines of the park as defined in the previous section of this act, or so far as said lines of battle or points of historic interest may be located upon any park, reservation, street, or public highway, or other land now belonging to, or hereafter to be acquired by, the United States or the District of Columbia and situated within the District of Columbia, and for the purpose of assisting the said commissioners in their duty and in ascertaining these lines and points of historic interest the Secretary of War shall have authority to employ, at such compensation as he may deem reasonable and just, to be paid out of the appropriation made by this act, some person recognized as well informed in regard to the details of the battle of Fort Stevens, and who shall have actually participated in said battle, and it shall be the duty of the Secretary of War, from and after the passage of this act, through the commissioners and their assistant in historical work, and under the provisions of the aforesaid acts regulating the condemnation of land for public uses, to proceed with the preliminary work of establishing the park and its approaches as the same are defined in this act, and the expenses thus incurred shall be paid out of the appropriation provided by this act.

SEC. 5. That it shall be the duty of the commissioners, acting under the direction of the Secretary of War, to ascertain and substantially mark the locations of the regular troops, both infantry, cavalry, and artillery, within the boundaries of the park, and also the location where President Lincoln stood during the battle, and to erect monuments upon these positions as Congress may provide in the necessary appropriations; and the Secretary of War in the same way may ascertain and mark the lines of battle within the boundaries of the park and erect plain and substantial historical tablets at such points in the vicinity of the park and its approaches as he may deem fitting and necessary to clearly designate the positions and movements, which, although without the limits of the park, were directly connected with the battle of Fort Stevens, the positions of the Confederate forces being marked in such manner as to enable the observer to readily note on a comprehensive basis the relation between the opposing lines of battle at various crucial stages of the conflict. It shall also be the duty of the commission to prepare from the War Department records of the Union and Confederate armies a map of the battlefield showing the positions of the opposing forces at various times, and to provide at all times for public use at the office of the custodian of the park a sufficient number of copies of said map for gratuitous distribution to all visitors to the park and the approaches thereto.

SEC. 6. That it shall be lawful for the authorities of any State having troops engaged in the battle of Fort Stevens to enter upon the lands and approaches of the Fort

Stevens-Lincoln National Military Park for the purpose of ascertaining and marking the lines of battle of troops engaged therein: *Provided*, That before any such lines are permanently designated the positions of the lines and the proposed methods of marking them, by monuments, tablets, or otherwise, shall be submitted to the Secretary of War and shall first receive the written approval of the Secretary, which approval shall be based upon formal written reports, which must be made to him in each case by the commissioners of the park.

SEC. 7. That the Secretary of War, subject to the approval of the President of the United States, shall have the power to make and shall make all needed regulations for the care of the park and for the establishment and marking of the lines of battle and other historical features of the park.

SEC. 8. That if any person shall willfully destroy, mutilate, deface, injure, or remove any monument, columns, statues, memorial structures, or work of art that shall be erected or placed upon the grounds of the park by lawful authority, or shall willfully destroy or remove any fence, railing, inclosure, or other work for the protection or ornament of said park, or any portion thereof, or shall willfully destroy, cut down, hack, bark, break down, or otherwise injure any tree, bush, or shrubbery that may be growing upon said park, or shall cut down, fell, or remove any timber, battle relic, tree, or trees growing or being upon such park, except by permission of the Secretary of War, or shall willfully remove or destroy any breastwork, earthwork, walls, or other defenses or shelter, on any part thereof, constructed by the troops formerly engaged in the battle of Fort Stevens, or the approaches to the park under the authority of the Secretary of War, any person so offending or found guilty thereof by the police court of the District of Columbia shall, for each and every such offense, forfeit and pay a fine, in the discretion of the judge, in accordance with the aggravation of the offense, of not less than five nor more than fifty dollars, one half to the use of the park and the other half to the informer, to be enforced and recovered before said court in like manner as other offenses committed against the United States.

SEC. 9. That to enable the Secretary of War to begin to carry out the purpose of this act, including the condemnation and purchase of the necessary land, marking the boundaries of the park, opening or repairing necessary roads, making maps and surveys, and the pay and expenses of the commissioners and their assistants, the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars, or such portion thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and disbursements under this act shall require the approval of the Secretary of War, and he shall make annual report of the same to Congress.

APPENDIX B.

Maps herewith.

APPENDIX C.

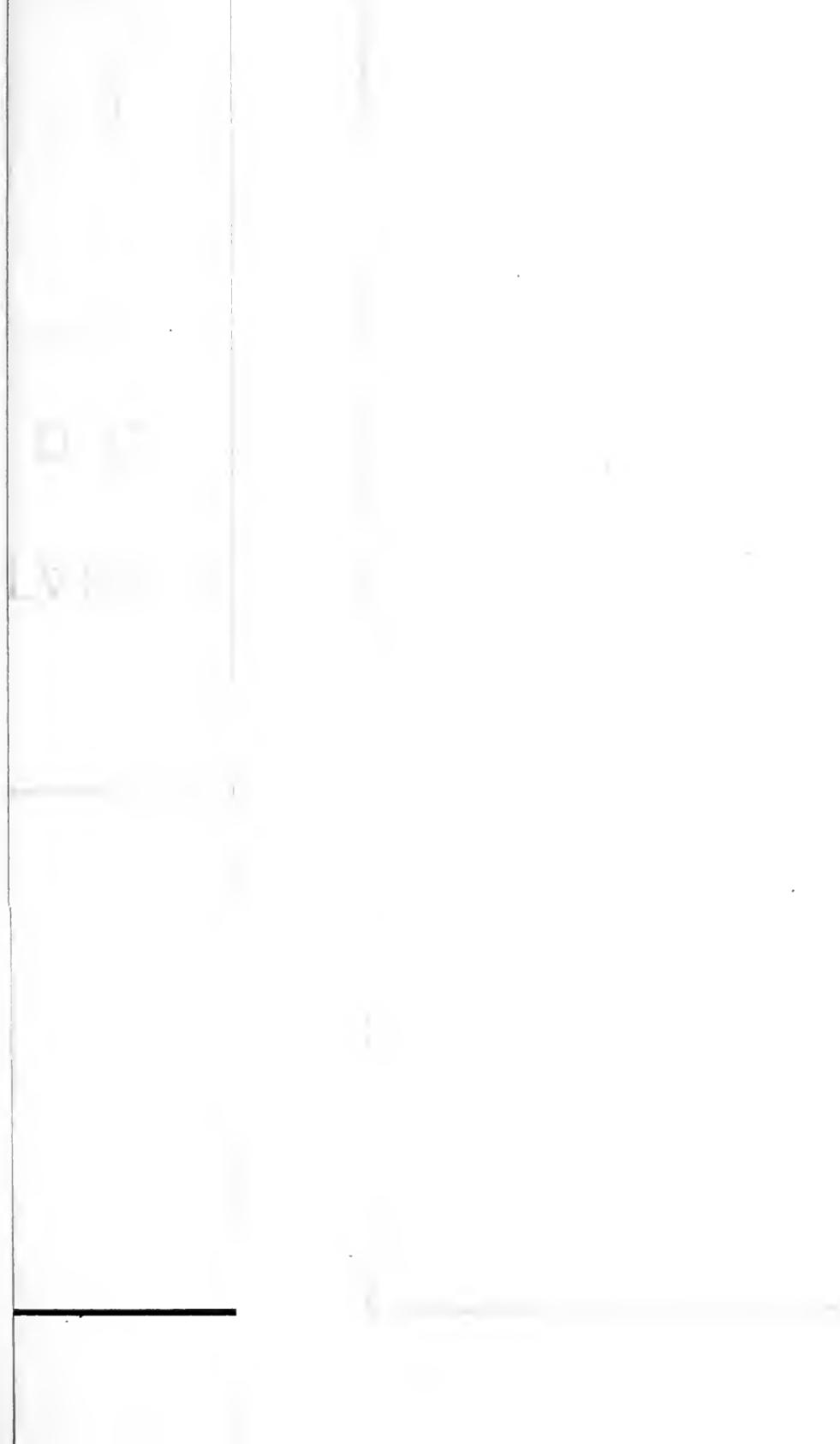
Mr. Lincoln's followers recall his majestic enunciations, in 1861, when he said to Charles Francis Adams at London:

"You will make no admission of weakness in our Constitution, or any apprehension on the part of our Government. * * * You will in no case listen to any suggestions of compromise by this Government, under foreign auspices, with its discontented citizens." * * *

And to Minister Dayton at Paris:

"The President neither expects nor desires any intervention, nor even any favor from the Government of France, or any other, in the emergency. If several European States should combine in that intervention, the President and the people of the United States deem the Union, which would then be at stake, worth all the cost and all the sacrifice of a contest with all the world at arms, if such a contest should prove inevitable." * * *

And, in so enunciating, he took hold of the hand of the people and moved grandly through the gloom, animated "with firmness in the right, as God gave him to see the right." His searching and comprehensive eye was upon all the operations, and during the four bloody years of his supreme command, the earth shook with the tramp of his armies—in the aggregate, from first to last, 2,700,000 men—events crowded rapidly; lurid flames of battle arose—a period said, truthfully, "of subversion and revolution when each hour brought new responsibilities to the great Com-



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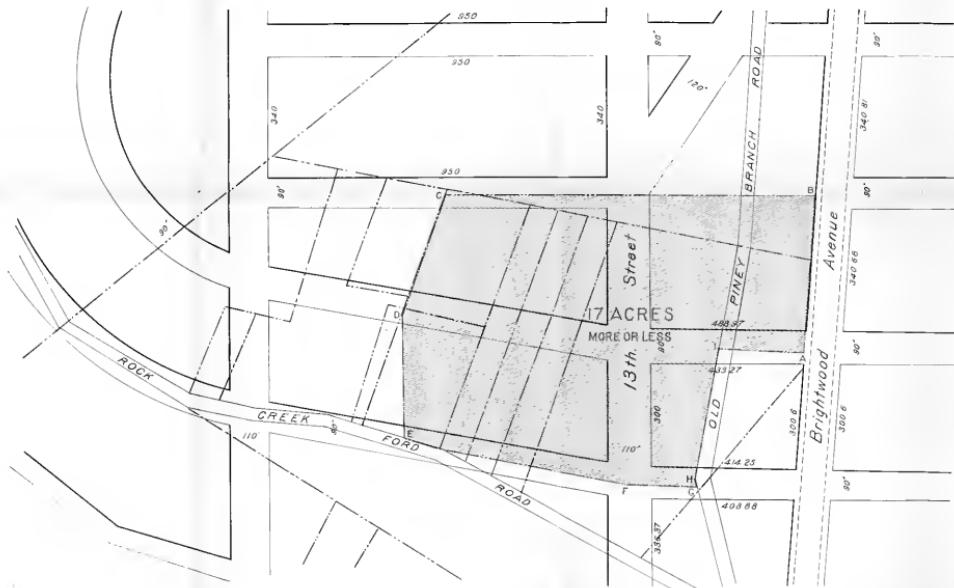
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PLATE

SHOWING PROPOSED U.S. MILITARY RESERVATION
AT
FORT STEVENS D.C.



Henry B. Looker
1902

Scale = 200 ft to 1 inch

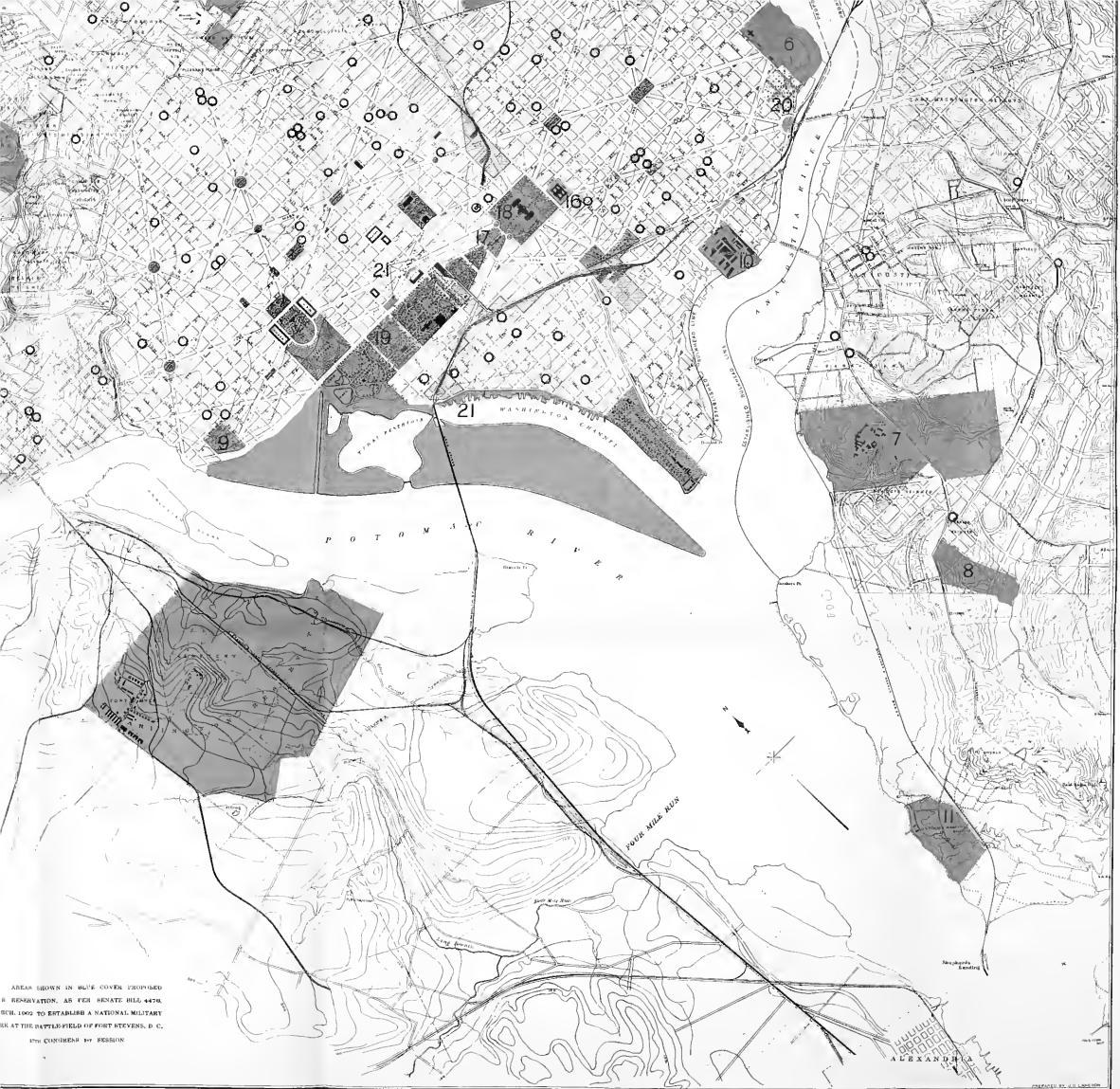








No. D-99





mander-in-Chief." The State was in combat with its own children. In hundreds of "battles and severe skirmishes blood flowed like water. It streamed over grassy plains; it stained the rocks; the undergrowth of the forest was red with it; and the armies marched on, with majestic courage, from one conflict to another," knowing that they were fighting for a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

A further object of the bill is to mark the exact location where Abraham Lincoln, in the midst of the consternation, trials, and confusion attending the threatened capital July 11 and 12, 1864, stood a noble spectator "unbent by favor or by fear," and sought "benediction upon the city and the world." It was the crucial struggle of that long period during which he fearlessly and firmly contended for that unity through which the United States are now blessed as the repository of "truth and principles which are indestructible in their vitality. Though buried, like the ear of corn in the Pyramids of Egypt, they strike root and spring into fruit when the hour has come." He believed truths and principles "to be divine, and that to suffer for them is the greatest glory of man." His Christian regard and respect are well illustrated by the following order:

"EXECUTIVE MANSION,
Washington, November 16, 1862.

"The President, Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy, desires and enjoins the orderly observance of the Sabbath by the officers and men in the military and naval service. The importance for man and beast of the prescribed weekly rest, the sacred rights of Christian soldiers and sailors, a becoming deference to the best sentiment of a Christian people, and a due regard for the divine will demand that Sunday labor in the Army and Navy be reduced to the measure of strict necessity.

"The discipline and character of the national forces should not suffer, nor the cause they defend be imperiled, by the profanation of the day or name of the Most High. 'At this time of public distress'—adopting the words of Washington in 1776—'men may find enough to do in the service of God and their country without abandoning themselves to vice and immorality.' The first general order issued by the Father of his Country after the Declaration of Independence indicates the spirit in which our institutions should ever be defended: 'The General hopes and trusts that every officer and man will endeavor to live and act as becomes a Christian soldier defending the dearest rights and liberties of his country.'

"ABRAHAM LINCOLN."

That order is in keeping with Lincoln's farewell words to his friends and neighbors at Springfield in February, 1861: "Pray that I may receive the Divine assistance, without which I can not succeed, but with which success is certain."

He had learned of the world—its miseries and its anguish; and through tribulation he bore witness "that God has a kingdom among men, * * * not a mere school of speculation dependent upon the supremacy of human power, * * * but a true and proper sovereignty over the wills of individuals and of governments—mighty to control because it is the kingdom of Eternal Justice, whose law in the end will infallibly prevail." He was an instrument in the hands of that "Divinity which shapes our ends, rough hew them how we will."

It is well to remember that Lincoln's classical, charitable, and immortal words have worked a grand result, and been seconded by the sons of the South, through utterances as follows:

"Of Mr. Lincoln's general character I need not speak. He was warm-hearted; he was generous; he was magnanimous; he was most truly, as he afterwards said on a memorable occasion, 'with malice toward none, with charity for all.' He had a native genius far above his fellows. Every fountain of his heart was overflowing with the 'milk of human kindness.' From my attachment to him, so much deeper was the pang in my own breast, as well as of millions, at the horrible manner of his 'taking off.' This was the climax of our troubles, and the spring from which came unnumbered woes. But of these events, no more now. Let not history confuse events. Emancipation was not the chief object of Mr. Lincoln in issuing the proclamation. His chief object, the ideal to which his whole soul was devoted, was the preservation of the Union. Pregnant as it was with coming events, initiative as it was of ultimate emancipation, it still originated, in point of fact, more from what was deemed the necessities of war than from any purely humanitarian view of the matter. Life is all a mist, and in the dark our fortunes meet us. This was evidently the case with Mr. Lincoln. He, in my opinion, was, like all the rest of us, an instrument in the hands of that Providence above us, that 'Divinity which shapes our ends, rough hew them how we will.'"*—Alexander Hamilton Stephens, of Georgia.*

"My fellow-countrymen of the North, we join you in setting apart this land (Gettysburg hallowed field) as an enduring monument of peace, brotherhood, and

perpetual union. I repeat the thought, with additional emphasis, with singleness of heart and of purpose, in the name of a common country, and of universal human liberty; and, by the blood of our fallen brothers, we unite in the solemn consecration of these hallowed hills, as a holy eternal pledge of fidelity to the life, freedom, and unity of this cherished Republic.”—*Gen. John B. Gordon.*

“The silken folds that twine about us here, for all their soft and careless grace, are yet as strong as hooks of steel. They hold together a united people and a great nation. The South says to the North, as simply and as truly as was said three thousand years ago in that far away meadow by the side of the mystic sea: ‘Thy people shall be my people, and thy God, my God.’”—*Henry Watterson.*

“We bring, O brothers of the North, the message of fellowship and love. This message comes from consecrated ground. All around my native home are the hills down which the gray flag fluttered in defeat, and through which the American soldiers, from both sides, charged like demi-gods. I could not bring a false message from those old hills, witnesses to-day, in their peace and tranquillity, of the imperishable union of the American States, and the indestructible brotherhood of the American people.”—*Henry W. Grady.*

Theodore O’Hara, in 1847, through his immortal poem “The Bivouac of the Dead”—written on the occasion of the transfer of the dead Kentucky “Loyal soldiers of the Union” from the battle-fields of the Mexican war to their native State, and which has been grandly recognized by imperishable tablets in the cemeteries of our National Government—touched the heart of nations, particularly English-speaking peoples. Notably Crimean battle-fields, the resting places of England’s heroes, are marked by monuments upon which the poem is recorded. O’Hara died in 1867. Could he speak to-day his words would prove as lofty for the Union as the patriotic utterances of Stephens, Gordon, Watterson, and Grady.

All such men breathe “their spirits into the institutions of their country” and “have stamped their characters on the pillars of the age.” As said by Everett:

These can not expire. * * *
These shall resist the empire of decay,
When time is o’er, and worlds have passed away.

Lincoln, in early manhood, risked his life to save the lives of three friends, and again to save the life of an Indian—“he loved his neighbor as himself.” Thenceforward, fearlessness and supreme courage were characteristic of all his days.

APPENDIX D.

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

Volume 37, part 1, Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, particularly the reports of Major-General McCook, p. 230; Major-General Meigs, p. 154; Major-General Wright, p. 264; Brigadier-General Wheaton, p. 275, and the respective subreports.

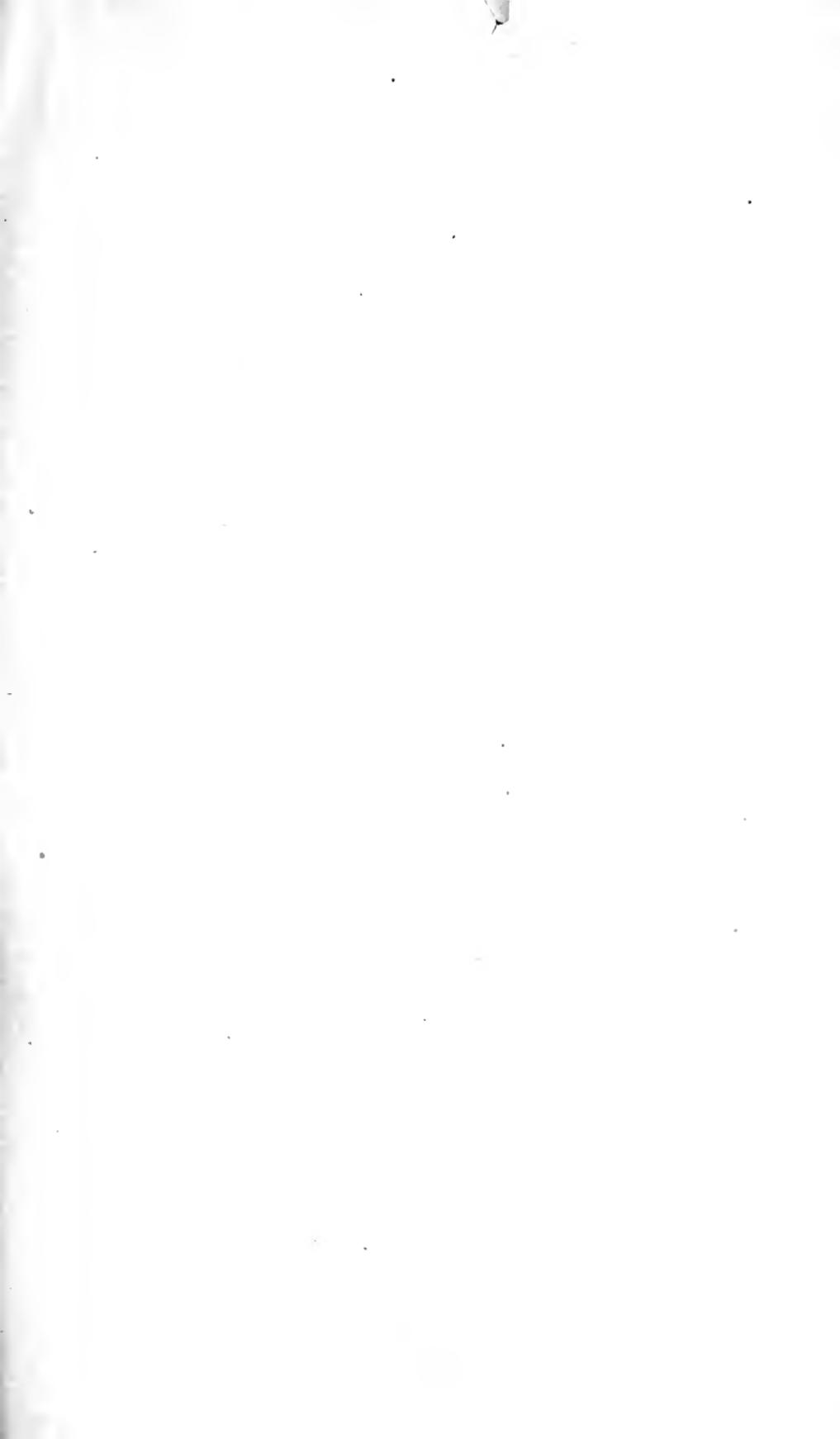
Professional papers of the Corps of Engineers, No. 20, report on the Defenses of Washington, by Maj. Gen. J. G. Barnard, published by the War Department in 1871. Appendix A recites as to “Early’s march upon Washington.”

“Early’s march to Washington in 1864,” by Jubal A. Early, lieutenant-general, C. S. A., pages 492-499, vol. 5, Battles and Leaders of the Civil War.

Senate Committee on the District of Columbia, Park Improvement Paper No. 4. “Fort Stevens, where Lincoln was under fire,” by William V. Cox, chairman of the Historical Committee, Brightwood Citizens Association. Also Senate Committee Park Improvement Papers No. 1, March 28, 1901, pages 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17.

Vol. 4, July, 1901, “Royal Blue Magazine.” Part taken by Baltimore and Ohio Railroad during the civil war, under President John W. Garrett.

For additional bibliography see page 18, part 4, Senate Committee Park Improvement Papers. On pages 17 and 18 the “Chronological Summary,” from official records, gives the killed and wounded at the battle of Fort Stevens as follows: Union—59 killed, 319 wounded; Confederate—500 killed and wounded.



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